

High Point Community Center Addition

10/23/2001 Project Advisory Team: Programming Meeting

The Project Advisory Team met to evaluate the fit between planned activities in the community center and its spaces, both existing and future. David Goldberg, Project Planner, described the elements of a typical full-service community center using the Community Center Levy Program's PowerPoint presentation. The group discussed how the spaces (rooms) of a full-service community center could fulfill the needs of their community, and proposed two additional spaces.

The group also emphasized the need for coordination and cooperation among the many agencies participating in the redevelopment of the High Point neighborhood. The group identified coordination of agencies' decision-making schedules as a priority. We also need to look closely at redundancy with respect to the community center, the public library branch, the health center, and other spaces that are created as a result of the SHA redevelopment of High Point.

Potential Partners with whom to Coordinate:

- Seattle Public Library: new High Point branch
- High Point Health Center: development of new space
- Seattle Parks and Recreation: Community Center Addition
- YMCA: will the Y continue to have a physical presence in the neighborhood?
- Southwest Community Center Addition: a nearby addition of space

The discussion of spaces included:

Multipurpose Room (Meeting Space):

- Very important to the community; this may be Parks' most significant contribution to community resources resulting from the redevelopment.
- Sprung floor (dance-type wood floor) is good for aerobics, dance, other physical activities likely programmed in this space.

Computer Room:

- A very important element at High Point. Will require staffing and training of staff, or partnering with an agency such as South Seattle Community College.
- High emphasis on this program element.

Game Room:

- Be sure that the game room is large enough: couch, chairs, big TV, sitting area.
- Big TV should have a lockable alcove so that it protected from damage and doesn't dominate the room.
- Good visibility into game room is important for safety of users
- While many activities supported are oriented to teens, other age groups should feel comfortable using the game room also.

Arts and Crafts Room:

- Would like ceramics capability (but note that Southwest CC has a very well equipped ceramics studio now). If High Point had a basic ceramics facility, it could be a feeder program to the larger facility at Southwest.
- Mike Brady, Center Coordinator, says that there is a big demand for arts and crafts activities.

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Fitness Room:

- This element will attract middle-class citizens, helping to create diversity in group served.

Several members of the group described activities that they believed should be offered or supported by the community center, and proposed spaces that would serve these:

Kids Activities:

- Day camp and after-school programs are very important to the community now, and needs will increase as redevelopment proceeds.
- Daycare and other licensed care: there will be a need for this in the community. Full day and drop-in for parents using the computer lab.

Teen Activities:

- Teens need a dedicated space. The portable at High Point needs to be replaced with space in the new building.
- Teen Leaders (funded by the ProParks Levy) will need space for their gear, perhaps in the game room. An office would be nice, but isn't essential.

Classroom Space:

- There is a need for classroom space: ESL, native language instruction for children
- Cooking classes are popular at centers that can support them.

Music Room:

- Should have space for a piano.
- Should be able to teach a small class in this room.

Family Support Center:

The group discussed the family support center components (office, meeting room, kids' room, family room) and how social service providers will be able to function within the new developments at High Point:

- Want the community center to complement the other services provided in the redevelopment of High Point. Timelines for decision making should be coordinated.
- What are the leasing arrangements for Family Service Center service providers at other community centers.

The group identified some questions that seemed especially important to answer if planning efforts are to be effective:

Important Questions:

- When space is shared between a number of programs, how available is it to each program, or to other potential users?